



File FAC

EMPLOYEE BULLETIN

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INSTALLATION OF SCULPTURE IN MAIN CONCOURSE, HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

1. A bronze sculpture entitled *Ecce Homo*, 1952, recently lent to CIA by Vincent Melzac, has been placed in the main concourse of Headquarters Building by the Fine Arts Commission (FAC).

2. The sculptor, Georgio Spaventa, was born in New York City in 1918. When he died in 1978 at the age of 60, he was virtually unknown to the art public of the 1970's. However, he was much admired by fellow artists, among them William de Kooning, who were important forces in the New York abstract-expressionist art world.

3. Mr. Spaventa studied at the Leonardo da Vinci Art School, the Beaux Arts Institute of Design, and the Grande Chaumiere in Paris. His sculptures were shown at the Gruenebaum Gallery, Poindexter Gallery, and the Stable Gallery of New York. Alberto Giacometti, whom he came to know in Paris in the late 1940's, had an important influence on his style, which also has been compared to that of Rodin.

4. His work is particularly noteworthy because it did not reflect the pop art or minimalist abstraction tendencies which were characteristic of other sculptors at that time. While other artists were emphasizing the actions of welding, cutting, or assembling, Spaventa insisted on giving his sculpture the imprint of his thumb and fingers. His chief materials, therefore, were wax and plaster for casting in bronze. *Ecce Homo* is highly representative of the introspective quality of Spaventa's work, and although the sculpture is not large, standing only 55 inches high, it conveys a feeling of great strength.

5. The Melzac Collection, from which the sculpture is on indefinite loan, is the source of the large colorful paintings which have been exhibited for several years on the east and south walls of the main concourse. The FAC recently arranged for six of these paintings to be exchanged for others from the same collection. Wall placards will identify these newly installed works, which include pieces by Bluhm, Thomas, Newman, Downing, and Mehring.

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